

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1575

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH "LE MONDE"

1. LE MONDE'S ERIC ROULEAU AND CAIRO CORRESPONDENT JEAN-PIERRE PERONCEL-HUGOZ INTERVIEWED SADAT IN ASWAN JAN 20. INTERVIEW MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL JAN 24 WHEN LE MONDE PLANS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON EGYPT IN PREPARATION FOR SADAT'S VISIT TO PARIS.

2. ACCORDING TO PERONCEL-HUGOZ, SADAT SAID HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT PROGRESS ON THE SINAI FRONT NOW AND LEAVE GOLAN AND JORDANIAN FRONTS UNTIL LATER. HE REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED VIEW THAT, EVEN IF THERE SHOULD BE FORMAL PEACE WITH ISRAEL, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE COULD BE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT IN HIS GENERATION.

3. CONCERNING STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON POSSIBLE US MILITARY ACTION IN GULF IN CASE OF ECONOMIC STRANGULATION OF WESTERN WORLD, PERONCEL-HUGOZ SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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SADAT MAINTAINED THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE SECRETARY

WAS "BLUFFING", BUT DOES BELIEVE THAT SECRETARY'S DECISION TO
MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS WAS ILL CONCEIVED. IN DIFFERENT CONTEXT,
SADAT REITERATED HIS FAITH IN THE SECRETARY AND HIS OPTIMISM
THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WILL BE FRUITFUL.

EILTS

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